

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-12 and 14-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bickmore et al. (U.S. 6,466,213), while claims 9 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bickmore et al. in view of Praitis et al. (U.S. 6,594,697). These rejections are respectfully disagreed with, and are traversed below.

The Examiner has now stated that he considers the entity to be the electronic document 112, and he refers to Figs. 1 and 13, and to col. 4, lines 18-23.

Fig. 1 shows that the document is annotated with an avatar, Fig. 13 shows multiple avatars positioned over a HTML page, while col. 4, lines 18-32 states only that:

"FIG. 1 is a diagram of a personal representative, or avatar, system 100 according to an embodiment of the invention. A document author 110 creates a document 112 and stores the document 112 in an electronic format on a network 120. The network 120 can be any network capable of supporting multimedia communications, including, for example, the Internet. Alternately, the network 120 can be a local area network, an ethernet, or any backbone network capable of providing the bandwidth needed for the multimedia communication between the network and users of the network. An avatar creator 130 creates an avatar 132 and uses the avatar 132 to annotate the document 112. A document reader 140 reads the document 112 and interacts with the avatar 132 to gain additional information concerning the document 112, such as the opinion of the avatar creator 130 regarding the technical merits of the document 112."

As was noted previously, Bickmore et al. teach that the avatar is intended to interact with hyperlinks that are located in a document for navigating within a document or between documents. There is no disclosure or suggestion that the avatar includes or comprises an addressing mechanism or a bookmark or a link to an address or a URI. The avatar *per se* of Bickmore et al. is not disclosed to include or comprise an addressing mechanism or a bookmark, but instead is intended to interact with links inserted into a document of interest.

Further, the rejection is unclear since, as an example, when referring to claims 3 and 4 the Examiner is referring to portions of Bickmore et al. that discuss the avatar (e.g., col. 10, lines 50-

54, and col. 3, lines 45-52), and not to portions of Bickmore et al. that describe the document 112 *per se*. If the Examiner does truly consider "the entity as the electronic document", then it would appear that the document 112 would need to include functionality that would anticipate the claimed entity functionality. This is not the case, and to selectively import various functionality from the avatar itself is not appropriate.

In any event, each of the independent claims has been further clarified by amendment to recite, in a similar fashion, that the claimed entity comprises "a message component that comprises a package of content and functionality having a plurality of components that are suitable for storage in a memory device" (as in claim 1). Support for this claim amendment is found at least in paragraphs [0026] and [0034]. This proposed claim amendment should serve to even further clarify and highlight the claimed subject matter, and to even further distinguish the claimed invention from the mere document described by Bickmore et al.

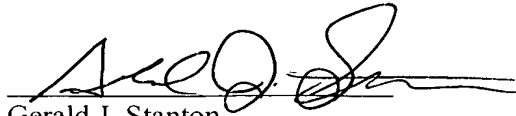
In that the independent claims are all clearly patentable over Bickmore et al., then the dependent claims should each be found to be patentable as well.

The entry of this proposed amendment is respectfully requested, at least for the reason that the Examiner did not, in the first office action, express his opinion that he considered the claimed entity to be equivalent to the document 112 of Bickmore et al. To do so now at this point in the prosecution, and to then refuse to not enter this clarifying amendment, would appear to be unfair to the applicant.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the previous rejections in view of the claims as clarified by amendment and as newly added, and to issue a timely notification of the allowance of claims 1-18.

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Date



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